

FOREIGN CLAIMS SETTLEMENT COMMISSION
OF THE UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20579

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM OF

GODFREY J. SOLTESZ

Under the International Claims Settlement
Act of 1949, as amended

Claim No. CU -1725

Decision No. CU **1780**

PROPOSED DECISION

This claim against the Government of Cuba, under Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, was presented by GODFREY J. SOLTESZ, and is based upon the asserted loss of \$46.15, sustained in connection with the ownership of a stock interest in Compania Litografica de la Habana, S. A. (Havana Lithographing Company), hereinafter referred to as Havana Lithographing. Claimant has been a national of the United States since his birth in the United States.

Under Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949 [78 Stat. 1110 (1964), 22 U.S.C. §§1643-1643k (1964), as amended, 79 Stat. 988 (1965)], the Commission is given jurisdiction over claims of nationals of the United States against the Government of Cuba. Section 503(a) of the Act provides that the Commission shall receive and determine in accordance with applicable substantive law, including international law, the amount and validity of claims by nationals of the United States against the Government of Cuba arising since January 1, 1959 for

losses resulting from the nationalization, expropriation, intervention or other taking of, or special measures directed against, property including any rights or interests therein owned wholly or partially, directly or indirectly at the time by nationals of the United States.

Section 502(3) of the Act provides:

The term 'property' means any property, right or interest including any leasehold interest, and debts owed by the Government of Cuba or by enterprises which have been nationalized, expropriated,

intervened, or taken by the Government of Cuba and debts which are a charge on property which has been nationalized, expropriated, intervened, or taken by the Government of Cuba.

Section 504 of the Act provides, as to ownership of claims, that

(a) A claim shall not be considered under Section 503(a) of this title unless the property on which the claim was based was owned wholly or partially, directly or indirectly by a national of the United States on the date of the loss and if considered shall be considered only to the extent the claim has been held continuously thereafter until the date of filing with the Commission.

Section 502(1) of the Act defines the term "national of the United States" to mean "(A) a natural person who is a citizen of the United States." The term does not include aliens.

The Regulations of the Commission provide:

The claimant shall be the moving party and shall have the burden of proof on all issues involved in the determination of his claim. (FCSC Reg., 45 C.F.R. §531.6(d) (Supp. 1967).)

Thus, in order for the Commission to favorably consider claims under Section 503(a) of Title V of the Act, it must be established (1) that the subject property was owned in whole or in part by a national of the United States on the date of nationalization or other taking; and (2) that the claim arising as a result of such nationalization or other taking has been continuously owned thereafter in whole or in part by a national or nationals of the United States to the date of filing with the Commission.

On the basis of evidence of record, the Commission finds that claimant is, and since March 1, 1962, has been, the owner of 100 shares of common stock of Havana Lithographing. The certificate representing the shares in question is No. CLHC 26801.

On October 13, 1960, the Government of Cuba published Law 890 in its Official Gazette, which listed as nationalized Compania Litografica de la Habana, S. A. Accordingly, the Commission has found that Havana Lithographing was nationalized by the Government of Cuba on October 13, 1960, and that stockholder interests in the enterprise were taken on that date. (See Claim of Central West Company, Claim No. CU-3440.)

By letter of March 13, 1968, the Commission suggested that claimant submit evidence to establish the identity and United States nationality of the owner or owners of the subject stock certificate on October 13, 1960 and continuously thereafter to claimant's acquisition on March 1, 1962. Claimant has failed to submit this evidence, and states in his letter of April 7, 1968 that his brokers "do not know of any other owner."

The Commission finds that claimant has not met the burden of proof in that he has failed to establish that the subject stock certificate was owned by a national of the United States on the date of loss and that the resulting claim was continuously so owned thereafter to the date of filing with the Commission.

Thus, the Commission is constrained to deny this claim and it is hereby denied. The Commission deems it unnecessary to make determinations with respect to other elements of the claim.

Dated at Washington, D. C.,
and entered as the Proposed
Decision of the Commission

MAY 1 1968

Leonard v. B. Sutton

Leonard v. B. Sutton, Chairman

Theodore Jaffe

Theodore Jaffe, Commissioner

NOTICE: Pursuant to the Regulations of the Commission, if no objections are filed within 15 days after service or receipt of notice of this Proposed Decision, the decision will be entered as the Final Decision of the Commission upon the expiration of 30 days after such service or receipt of notice, unless the Commission otherwise orders. (FCSC Reg., 45 C.F.R. 531.5(e) and (g) as amended, 32 Fed. Reg. 412-13 (1967).)